

as a judge advocate officer, including 1 year as chief of military justice at Da Nang Air Force Base in Vietnam.

Upon returning to civilian life, General Poythress remained in the Air Force Reserve, serving as a judge advocate officer in various positions of increasing responsibility. In 1991, General Poythress returned to active duty to oversee the reserve legal officers during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1994, and to major general in July of 1999.

It was in 1999 that General Poythress took over as the adjutant general of the State of Georgia, where he has commanded 12,000 personnel of the Georgia Army National Guard, the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Georgia State Defense Force now for nearly a decade.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006, General Poythress became the first adjutant general in Georgia's 273-year history to wear a third star as a lieutenant general. And for the past 8 years, General Poythress has led Georgia's Guard through some historic changes, and our men and women have performed admirably under his leadership.

Not only has General Poythress made a major impact on our Nation's military, but he has also been an irreplaceable asset, Mr. Speaker, to the State of Georgia. General Poythress spent much of his civilian career in public service to the citizens of our great State. He served first as deputy state revenue commissioner, then secretary of the State of Georgia, and finally, commissioner of labor in Georgia. Needless to say, General Poythress's retirement will leave huge shoes to fill in the State of Georgia.

Over the past several years, Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed getting to know General Poythress and his lovely wife, Elizabeth, as personal friends, and I appreciate their singular dedication to our Guardsmen.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, I even had the opportunity to travel to Iraq with the general, and we met with Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team. I know it must have been a joy for General Poythress to see his troops and General Rhodheaver serving our Nation so honorably, but also a painful time, as he remembered the 26 fallen soldiers from the 48th who were lost in some of the most dangerous combat in the Sunni Triangle outside of the city of Baghdad.

Through all of the struggles, including the difficult task of assisting Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, General Poythress has led Georgia's Guard with the strength of a commander and the heart, Mr. Speaker, of a public servant.

And so I ask my colleagues tonight, join me in honoring Lieutenant General David Poythress for his dedicated service to defending the State of Georgia and the United States of America.

HONORING OUR VETERANS— VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this coming week we will celebrate Veterans Day. As we remember the many who have given their lives in service to our Nation, I hope we pause not only to honor their memory, but also to express our gratitude for that which their sacrifices have secured.

The many American veterans that we honor today are a reflection of American greatness. The men and women of our Armed Forces throughout our Nation's history have not hesitated to make tremendous personal sacrifices for the cause of freedom. If it were not for our brave and selfless veterans, we would be a land of fewer freedoms and smaller liberties.

Throughout our history, our veterans have gone to foreign shores to fight the forces of injustice and tyranny. Today, many live in freedom thanks to their great sacrifices.

Our veterans are the first and the finest example of the American hero. They have preserved our peace and they have held back the tide of darkness when the call has sounded to protect our liberty. And these men and women have done and continue to do these things with a sense of duty that has never shirked the great sacrifices, but instead, upholds the mantle of democracy with strength and pride.

On Veterans Day, we rightly single out the members of our Armed Forces, past and present, and give them the honor that they do not ask for, but that they so richly deserve.

I do not say this lightly, that our veterans are the primary forces that keep and have kept the vision of America alive throughout the centuries. Ours is a vision of freedom for all, a vision of a land where any man or woman can breathe free and lay hold of prosperity, secure in the knowledge that their brave and selfless soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guardsmen have proven that our cause is worthy of the most profound of sacrifices.

We must not take our freedoms lightly. They have been purchased with the blood and sacrifice of many patriots. These patriots have answered the call to service, knowing that a life without liberty is hardly worth living.

They've shown us that our freedoms are invaluable and priceless beyond the paltry dividends of a life under the shadow of tyranny or fear or repression.

We have much to be grateful for in this Nation. Our freedoms are many and our sacrifices are few in comparison to what our veterans willingly give up. And these sacrifices are made on our behalf so that we might enjoy a liberty that is unrivaled throughout human history.

It is therefore a tremendous pleasure to honor the men and women who saw

the value of freedom and grasped the threat of tyranny and did not shrink into the twilight. As Thomas Paine said of our freedom on the eve of the American Revolution: "The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth."

I thank our veterans for recognizing this cause and rising to its defense with unfailing strength. Our gratitude is tribute to your great bravery and profound sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX BURDEN IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight, it is our opportunity to talk about the tax burden that families in America unfortunately must pay.

I am a six-term Member of Congress. I represent the Eighth Congressional District of Texas. It's a great district that encompasses a great deal of east Texas from the Louisiana border over to I-45. I live in The Woodlands, Texas, just north of Houston, with my wife and our two boys, a kindergarten son named Sean and a third-grader named Will, who goes to public school, Sally K. Ride Elementary School. We are